



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



OCTOBER 17, 2003

Hot News!

McCollum Announces Federal Grant for Partnership to Prevent Domestic Violence

This week Rep. Betty McCollum announced a \$307,500 federal grant for a partnership that will provide comprehensive legal assistance and advocacy for immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence. Asian Women United, Civil Society, and Domestic Abuse Project will establish legal clinics to serve victims in underserved communities. McCollum's announcement is part of efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence and October as Domestic Violence Prevention Month.

"Domestic violence is a problem in all communities," said McCollum. "Minority women, particularly immigrants, face unique challenges to reporting and getting help for domestic violence. Often these women fear leaving a relationship because of immigration status, or face cultural barriers to reporting and seeking help. This partnership will develop and provide culturally appropriate legal and support services to victims of domestic violence."

The services provided by the three agencies will include representation for emergency and non-emergency protective order hearings and other legal matters arising as a consequence of the abuse and violence; including family, immigration, administrative, agency or housing matters, protective or stay away order proceedings and other similar matters. The services will be coordinated with extensive safety planning which will be conducted by Asian Women United and Domestic Abuse Project advocates.

"It is critical that we continue to promote education and awareness of this issue. We must stand together as a community and declare that violence against women and children is unacceptable," said McCollum.

The partnership agencies are currently conducting required trainings, including culturally competence cross trainings and the use of interpretation. The collaboration will begin services to clients on January 2, 2004.



Rep. Betty McCollum congratulated the Courage Center of Minnesota and its CEO Eric Stevens and Board Member Lolly Lijewski for earning the 2003 New Freedom Initiative Award from the U.S. Department of Labor. The center developed and implemented a program to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities through increased access to assistive technologies and the use of innovative training, hiring and retention techniques.

President's \$87 billion Bill is No Plan for Iraq

"I strongly support an Iraq policy that promotes international burden sharing, keeps our troops safe and pays the bills right now - not a generation from now. Our troops are embroiled in a guerrilla war and this White House has no plan. Our citizens and our national security demand an immediate strategy for transferring power and exiting Iraq.

The president's \$87 billion request only inflates the deficit and continues attempts to justify unilateral political control. I will not rubber stamp the president's failed plan and his blank check for Halliburton's war profiteering. Our brave men and women in uniform deserve better."

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

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